

WORKING MOTHER'S 100 BEST COMPANIES FOR WORKING MOTHERS

• Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon, I attended the White House Conference on Child Care. Business, labor, and religious leaders will be sharing their strategies and successes for improving and expanding child care opportunities. This afternoon's discussion is entitled "learning from what works."

In government, we can do no better than to look to the private and non-profit businesses and organizations in our communities to learn what works. With today's focus on child care issues, I commend to my colleagues, this month's issue of Working Mother Magazine, and it's 12th annual survey of the 100 best companies for working mothers.

The companies included on the 100 best list are ones that provide working mothers with exceptional opportunities to contribute to the company's success, and to care for their families. Working Mother Magazine measures companies based on five criteria: pay, opportunities to advance, child care, flexibility, and other family friendly benefits.

The 100 best companies have made a commitment to strengthening families and communities. At the same time, these companies are strengthening their bottom line. In order for our Nation to remain globally competitive in the 21st century, we must utilize all of the talents of all of our people. Working mothers have talents and abilities our country cannot afford to be without. The 100 best companies are utilizing creative, effective solutions to the problems working mothers face as they try to balance career and family concerns. By doing so, these companies profit as mothers are able to focus more energy and attention on their work.

Making jobs work for women and their families is what these companies are all about. I am especially proud that 7 of the companies on the 100 best list are based in my home State of Illinois. Each of the Illinois companies has taken steps to recognize the talents of working mothers, and to help them help their families. Among other accomplishments,

Allstate Insurance Co. recently opened a \$3 million child care center in Northbrook, IL, that not only provides child care at the company's headquarters, but also offers full day kindergarten and holiday, vacation, and backup care;

Amoco Corp. provides elder and child care referral services that were used by over 6,000 employees last year, and provides reimbursements for child care expenses accrued due to travel or overtime;

Leo Burnett Co., Inc., continues to promote working mothers to executive positions. Today, the president and the chief creative officer are women;

Fel-Pro, Inc., offers family friendly programs ranging from an 8-week sum-

mer camp to a \$1,000 savings bond for newborns. Fel-Pro has been included in the 100 best list since its inception years ago;

First Chicago NBD Corp. has been improving on their already impressive array of services with financial support for adoptions, and benefits for part-time employees;

Motorola, Inc., according to the magazine, "remains the corporate leader in providing subsidized child care for employees' kids";

Northern Trust Corp. has doubled the number of employees working at home in the past year; and

Sara Lee Corp. has a commitment to helping working mothers advance. Today, its general counsel, chief financial officer and treasurer, among others, are female.

This list includes some of the most successful companies in the country, including the largest advertising firm in the country, and one of the Nation's oil companies. What each of these seven corporations has shown is that both companies and children benefit from policies that take not only the employee, but her whole family into account. Working mothers are an important asset to the Nation's employers. Strong families are an important asset to us all.

I urge my colleagues to read this month's issue of Working Mother Magazine so that we can learn from industry leaders—we all benefit from policies that support working families.●

THE IMPORTANCE OF RENEWABLE FUELS

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, just this week, we in the U.S. Senate have been confronted with two strong reminders of the importance of renewable fuels to this country. This emerging industry, potentially lucrative for American farmers and agribusiness, can help solve two key problems that we face: the impact of greenhouse gases on the global climate, and the growing dependency of the American economy on the import of foreign petroleum products.

On Wednesday, President Clinton, announced the U.S. position with respect to the climate change treaty to be negotiated in Kyoto in December. Under his instructions, American negotiators will seek to fashion an agreement that will commit, on an equitable basis, the nations of the world to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases over the next several decades. If implemented, our ability to meet such goals will depend greatly on the development and adoption of new technologies which are more energy efficient. The President's proposal to provide tax incentives for more energy efficient technology should be important in spurring such development efforts. Renewable fuel technologies, especially those derived from agricultural products, will be a crucial component of such activities. Many forms, such as the energy that

will be produced from the switchgrass project underway in Centerville, IA, offer the added benefit of actually withdrawing carbon from the atmosphere. Expansion of production of renewable fuels also increases income for the farm sector, and creates new jobs. In keeping with a key theme voiced at the recent White House Conference on Climate Change, with renewable fuels we can do well by doing good, for American agriculture and the whole country.

If that were not enough, Mr. President, Tuesday's announcement by the Commerce Department that record oil imports caused our merchandise trade deficit to increase in August gives added urgency to the promotion of renewable fuels. It is clear that even if no treaty on climate change comes out of Kyoto, our dependence on oil imports still looms on the horizon. The share of imports in U.S. oil consumption has been climbing steadily over the last few years, and the Energy Information Administration of the Department of Energy projects that the share could reach 75 percent within the next 10-15 years. Increased production and use of renewable sources of energy could help to stem that tide, and reduce our need to rely on energy sourced in large part from a politically unstable region of the world.

During this session of Congress, we can begin to respond to these events in at least one concrete way, by passing into law the proposed extension of the ethanol tax credit to the year 2007. I urge my colleagues to seize this opportunity now to show our confidence in agriculture's ability to make a positive contribution in these areas by producing renewable energy for American consumers to use.●

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 37

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that Senate Joint Resolution 37, which was introduced earlier today by Senator JEFFORDS, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). The clerk will read the joint resolution for the first time by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 37) to provide for the extension of a temporary prohibition of strikes or lockout and to provide for binding arbitration with respect to the labor dispute between Amtrak and certain of its employees.

Mr. LOTT. I now ask for its second reading and would object to my own request on behalf of the other side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2646

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2646 has arrived from